

bff: best friends forever

"Text Me", Part 5 of 6
Pastor Vince DiPaola

Relationships: The ones that should last forever

1) Relate to ___ GOD GENUINELY ___: It's about intimacy.

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."
(Philippians 3:10, NIV)

Two Primary Ways

a) ___ BIBLE READING AND LIVING ___: God talks to you.

"We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him." (1 John 2:3-5, NIV)

b) ___ PRAYER AND WORSHIP ___: You talk with God.

"But God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer." (Psalm 66:19, NIV)

2) Relate to ___ FAMILY FAITHFULLY ___: It's about unity.

"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table."
(Psalm 128:1-3, NIV)

3) Relate to ___ BELIEVERS BOLDLY ___: It's about maturity.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles... prophets... evangelists... pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the whole body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature... Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
(Ephesians 4:11-13, 29 NIV)

Three Of The Biggest

a) A ___ CHURCH ___ to commune with.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another— and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
(Hebrews 10:25, NIV)

b) A ___ GROUP ___ to grow with.

"They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together... They broke bread in their homes... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people..."
(Acts 2:42, 46-47, NIV)

c) A ___ FRIEND ___ to fellowship with.

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
(Proverbs 18:24, NIV)

4) Relate to ___ SEEKERS SINCERELY ___: It's about eternity.

"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."
(Colossians 4:3-6, NIV)